

IRAN

CONFIDENTIAL

17 December 1984
FB 84-10066
MIDDLE EAST-9

Special Memorandum

Iran
(p 3)

Iranian Media Treatment of Kuwait Airways Hijacking



Foreign Broadcast Information Service

018

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Iranian officials as acting responsibly during the Air France hijacking and refrained from explicitly denouncing the hijackers.

The August incident came in the wake of a hijacking in June of an Iranian airliner to France, where the hijackers requested asylum. IRNA subsequently reported Foreign Ministry condemnation of the French failure to extradite the hijackers "in violation of international laws and regulations." The ministry spokesman concluded: "Such disregard can create the right to retaliatory action."

The August incident ended, according to Tehran radio, when the hijackers surrendered to the Iranian authorities after releasing the hostages and blowing up the plane's cockpit. IRNA thereafter reported a request by the hijackers for asylum, and on 3 August President Khamene'i condemned France and the Western powers as "the origin and source of the propagation of terrorism in the world." He added that France's "ignorant and stupid leaders gave asylum to the ugliest international terrorists."

25X1 France was again criticized in the wake of the Kuwait Airways hijacking. In a Friday prayer sermon on 14 December reported by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani complained about lenient treatment of hijackers of the Iranian aircraft to France: "If you want the aircraft hijack terrorists from us . . . then you, too, should hand over to us the fugitive aircraft hijack terrorists who are currently living in France."

There were threatening, if ambiguous, overtones in Rafsanjani's remarks. He told his audience: "Either there should be air security for all airlines—and we would join efforts in this—or there will be no security for airlines of those countries which are the subject of your hatred; there will be absolutely no security for you!" Rafsanjani added that Iran had "not yet deemed it necessary to join the fray," but he suggested a connection between Iran and unidentified terrorist organizations when he said that if necessary, "there are peoples in the world who would embark on such action," and Iran would be willing to "enter the arena." While he stated Iran's willingness to engage in "diplomatic talk," he served notice in the same breath that "if it becomes a matter of actions, then you should act correctly, as we too would act."

CONFIDENTIAL